



Calgary Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

November 2, 2015

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are prepared by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners and an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan prepared by Kathleen Hall and Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

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NEWS STORY 1

WHAT ALBERTANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2015 BUDGET



Photo Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/alberta-budget-2015-ndp-1.3291319>

GENERAL WARM-UP ACTIVITY

Do you have a personal or family budget? How does the provincial or federal budget affect your everyday life?

VOCABULARY BUILDING ACTIVITY 1: CREATING AWARENESS

Look at the words and phrases below. Circle the ones you do not know.

Pocketbooks deficit billion fines speeding
running a red light corporate funding fixing expanding

VOCABULARY BUILDING ACTIVITY 2: DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE

Before you listen to the news story, look at the words below and their meanings. These will help you to understand the listening more easily.

WORD	MEANING
pocketbooks	wallets, purses
deficit	shortage
billion	\$1,000,000,000
fines	penalty, punishment, charge
speeding	driving too fast
running a light	driving more quickly through the intersection when the light is red.

corporate	business, company
funding	support, money, grant
fixing	repairing
expanding	growing, increasing

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1: LISTENING FOR COMPREHENSION.

Listen to the first news story. In the story, you will hear 5 ways the budget will affect Albertans. Make notes in the table below:

5 ways the budget will affect Albertans	
First,	Increase in taxes on _____.
Secondly,	Increase in fines for _____.
Thirdly,	Increase in _____ taxes.
Fourthly,	Funding for _____ will increase.
Last,	Funding for fixing _____.

(See the answer key for answers)

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2: LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

Listen again. This time fill in the blanks below with what you hear.

Low oil prices have affected the _____ of many Albertans, and the same goes for the provincial budget. The province is expecting a _____ of \$6.1 _____ dollars this year. However, the _____ is not stopping Alberta's NDP government from increasing spending.

There are 5 ways the budget will affect Albertans. First, there will be increased taxes on tobacco and liquor. Secondly, there will be increases in _____ for _____, failing to stop at a stop sign, or _____ red _____. Thirdly, increases to _____ taxes will take place. Fourthly, _____ for families and seniors will increase. Last but not least, funding for _____ roads, building schools, and _____ hospitals will increase.

(See the answer key for answers)

LANGUAGE FOCUS: IDIOMS AND EXPRESSIONS ABOUT MONEY

The newscast says that ``prices have affected the pocketbooks of Albertans``. To affect the pocketbooks (wallets) is a way of saying that people`s finances will be affected.

There are a number of expressions about money that we commonly use. Some examples are provided in the table below.

IDIOMS ABOUT MONEY

IDIOM	EXPLANATION
To pour money down the drain For example: The man is pouring money down the drain by always repairing his old car.	To waste money
To be [flat] broke For example: I can't go out tonight, I'm flat broke	To have no money.
To be down-and-out For example: My friend was down-and-out for many years before he got a job.	To have no money and be in a difficult time.
To make ends meet For example: I have been having trouble making ends meet because the rent for my apartment is very high.	To have enough money to pay the bills and other living expenses (e.g. food and gas)
To live from hand to mouth For example: My friend has been living from hand to mouth. He never has any extra money.	To live on exactly as much money as you make.
To be dirt poor For example: Most of the population in this undeveloped area was dirt-poor and jobless.	Very poor
To be a cash cow For example: The British newspapers are the group's biggest cash cow, earning nearly 40% of group profits.	A business or a part of a business that always makes a lot of profit.
A blank cheque For example: The project manager seems to think he has a blank cheque.	As much money to spend as is wanted or needed.
Easy money For example: A lot of people think running a web site is easy money.	Money that you do not need to work hard to get
Money is no object For example: Money is no object and I plan to stay in the best hotels during my holiday.	It does not matter how much something costs
Money doesn't grow on trees. For example: We can't afford to buy a house. Money doesn't grow on trees.	Money isn't that easy to come by.

<p>To be made of money For example: They are made of money and stay in the nicest places when they travel.</p>	To have a lot of money
<p>To not be made of money For example: I 'm not made of money and can't waste it on things I do not need.</p>	To not have a lot of money
<p>To have more money than sense. For example: Sam spent \$100.00 on a box of chocolates. He has got more money than sense.</p>	Spending your money foolishly.
<p>To throw money around For example: They don't work but they have plenty of money to throw around.</p>	To spend money, in an obvious way, on things that are not necessary.
<p>To cost an arm and a leg For example: I paid an arm and a leg for my car but I am very happy with it.</p>	To cost a lot of money or to pay a high price for something
<p>To splurge on (something) For example: We decided to splurge and go to a nice restaurant for dinner.</p>	To spend more money than one might ordinarily spend
<p>To be dirt cheap For example: The land was dirt cheap when we bought it.</p>	Extremely cheap
<p>To make a living For example: She works hard to make a living and support her family.</p>	To earn enough money to live
<p>To save up (for something) For example: I am saving up for a new television set.</p>	To save money in order to buy something
<p>To be tightfisted (with money) For example: My uncle is very tightfisted with money and does not want to spend any at all.</p>	To be very stingy with money
<p>To be filthy rich For example: Bill Gates is filthy rich.</p>	Extremely rich
<p>To strike it rich For example: He struck it rich in the computer business.</p>	To suddenly become rich
<p>To chip in (money) For example: Everybody in our office chipped in some money to buy a wedding present for our boss.</p>	to contribute money for something, to pay jointly for something

Language Focus Activity

Complete the following sentences using idioms from the table above. Be careful to use the correct tense and form of the verb.

1. They make a lot of money from their new shop. It is a real
_____.
2. I need to find a good job so that I can _____ to support myself.
3. They told the wedding planner that money was not object. They gave her
_____.
4. We only have the money we need each month to survive. We are
_____.
5. We all _____ to buy our mother a gift for her birthday. I think we each paid \$20.

(See the answer key for answers)

NEWS STORY 2

HARPER MOVING BACK TO CALGARY



Photo Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/stephen-harper-to-move-back-to-calgary-following-election-defeat-1.3291086>

GENERAL WARM-UP ACTIVITY

How often have you had to move houses? Is it difficult to move to a new city?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1: LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC VOCABULARY

Listen carefully for these words in the newscast. Make a checkmark when you hear the word or expression.

Word /Expression	✓
outgoing	
attends	
official	
residence	
riding	
resign	
concession	
low profile	

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1: LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS

Listen to the story. Read the statements below. Put a check mark under the name(s) that the statement refers to in the news story. An example is done for you.

Statement	Stephen Harper	Laureen	Rachel	Ben	Movers
Moving to Calgary					
Moved items out of the house					
Going to Queen's University					
MP for Calgary Heritage	✓				

(See the answer key for answers)

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2: LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

Listen again. This time fill in the blanks below with what you hear.

_____ Prime Minister Stephen Harper, his wife, Laureen, and daughter, Rachel, will be moving back to Calgary. Harper's son, Ben, will stay in Ontario while he _____ Queen's University in Kingston.

Movers were seen carrying items from 24 Sussex, the _____ of Canada's prime minister.

Harper, who was elected in the Alberta _____ of Calgary Heritage, _____ as Conservative Party leader but will stay on as an MP.

Harper has not spoken publically since he gave his _____ speech. He has been keeping a _____.

(See the answer key for answers)

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1: GUESSING MEANING FROM CONTEXT

Now that you have heard and seen how these words and expressions used in the news story, choose the best synonym or definition for these terms as they are used in the story.

Answer	Word/Expression	Synonyms/Definitions
C	outgoing	A. sociable B. leaving C. outbound
	attends	A. joins B. listens C. goes to
	official	A. authorized, formal B. endorsed, sanctioned C. officer, administrator
	residence	A. house, home B. university or college dormitory C. the official house of an government or official figure
	riding	A. galloping, trotting B. constituency, geographical area C. travelling, journeying
	resigned	A. sign on again B. give up your job C. prepared to accept
	concession	A. business franchise B. reduction, discount C. giving way, yielding, give up
	low profile	A. inconspicuous, discreet B. shy, modest C. bland, understated

(See the answer key for answers)

LANGUAGE FOCUS: INTRODUCTION TO APPOSITIVES

The easiest way to think of an appositive is as a noun or noun phrase that says exactly the same thing as the noun or noun phrase before it.

An appositive renames another noun right beside it, so they are interchangeable (it doesn't matter which noun or noun phrase comes first. Although appositives help to identify or explain the noun or noun phrase, they can be removed without changing the meaning or the accuracy of the sentence.

For Example:

Elizabeth II, the queen of England, has reigned for 63 years.

The queen of England, Elizabeth II, has reigned for 63 years

- Elizabeth II has reigned for 63 years.

Barack Obama, the president of the United States, is in his last term

The president of the United States, Barack Obama, is in his last term

- Barack Obama is in his last term

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary -General of the United Nations, first took office in 2007.

Secretary -General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, first took office in 2007.

- Ban Ki-moon first took office in 2007.

As you can see from the examples above, appositives are separated from the rest of the sentence by commas unless they are at the end of the sentence. If so they are just separated from the previous noun or noun phrase by a comma.

Language Focus: Activity 1

Underline the appositives in the following sentence from News Story 2. An example is done for you.

1. Canada's outgoing Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, his wife, Laureen, and daughter, Rachel, will be moving back to Calgary.
2. Harper's son, Ben, will stay in Ontario while he attends Queen's University in Kingston.
3. Movers were seen carrying items from 24 Sussex, the official residence of Canada's prime minister.

(See the answer key for answers)

NEWS STORY 3

RENAMING THE CALGARY AIRPORT AFTER STEPHEN HARPER RAISES DEBATE



Rename Calgary International Airport to the Stephen J. Harper International

Photo Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/renaming-calgary-airport-duelling-petitions-1.3291241>

GENERAL WARM-UP ACTIVITY

Do you know of any airports named for someone famous? Can you name them? Do you think it is a good idea to name airports after people rather than cities?

VOCABULARY BUILDING ACTIVITY 1: CREATING AWARENESS

Look at the words and phrases below. Circle the ones you do not know.

Petition	gathering steam	rival	calling for
Time will tell	hypothetical	debate	

VOCABULARY BUILDING ACTIVITY 2: CREATING AWARENESS

Look at the words and phrases in the box below. They are paired with sentences that use synonyms or phrases with the same meaning. Based on the context clues from the sentences, try to understand the meanings of the new vocabulary.

WORDS AND PHRASES	CONTEXT SENTENCES WITH SYNONYMS, OR PHRASES WITH THE SAME MEANING
petition	A member of Greenpeace was on the corner asking people to sign his appeal to save the whales.
gathering steam	No one was interested in the plan at first, but it has become more successful over time .
rival	Competing gangs fought on downtown streets.
calling for	They demand that something be done immediately.
time will tell	We do not know now if they have found a cure for the common cold. The truth of their claim will be proven in the future .
hypothetical	Scientists are experimenting with a number of theoretical even imaginary situations.
debate	The discussion soon became an argument .

VOCABULARY BUILDING ACTIVITY 3

Now complete the following sentences with vocabulary from the left side of the box above.

1. We have a problem with the park in our neighbourhood. I am asking my neighbours to sign a _____.
2. We are _____ an immediate solution to the problem.
3. We will know if our plan has worked in a couple of months. Therefore, only _____.
4. There are two opposing ideas about the problem in our neighbourhood. We have organized a _____ to hear each idea.
5. There are two _____ plans competing for our approval.

(See the answer key for answers)

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1: LISTENING FOR GENERAL COMPREHENSION.

Listen to News Story 3. Listen for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2: LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

Listen to News Story 3 again. Listen specific information. See the questions below to assist you.

1. What is the online petition calling for?
2. What is the rival petition calling for?
3. Which petition has more support?
4. How many Canadians have signed he petitions?
5. Does it matter?

(See the answer key for answers)

Discussion Question:

Do you think the Calgary Airport should be named for Stephen Harper?

Why or why not? Ask you friends and colleagues what they think about this debate.

Extension Activity:

A number of airports east of Alberta have been named after well-known Canadians Research the people after whom the following airports are named.

1. J.A. Douglas McCurdy Sydney Airport Canadian
2. Québec/Jean Lesage International Airport
3. Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport
4. Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport
5. Toronto Pearson International Airport Billy
6. Bishop Toronto City Airport
7. Hamilton/John C. Munro International Airport
8. Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport
9. Saskatoon/John G. Diefenbaker International Airport

(See the answer key for answers)

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of November 2 nd .	0:00
Newscast 1 <i>What Albertans need to know about the 2015 budget</i>	<p>Low oil prices have affected the pocketbooks of many Albertans, and the same goes for the provincial budget. The province is expecting a deficit of \$6.1 billion dollars this year. However, the deficit is not stopping Alberta's NDP government from increasing spending.</p> <p>There are 5 ways the budget will affect Albertans. First, there will be increased taxes on tobacco and liquor. Secondly, there will be increases in fines for speeding, failing to stop at a stop sign, or running a red light. Thirdly, increases to corporate taxes will take place. Fourthly, funding for families and seniors will increase. Last but not least, funding for fixing roads, building schools, and expanding hospitals will increase.</p>	0:10
Newscast 2 <i>Harper moving back to Calgary</i>	<p>Outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper, his wife, Laureen, and daughter, Rachel, will be moving back to Calgary. Harper's son, Ben, will stay in Ontario while he attends Queen's University in Kingston.</p> <p>Movers were seen carrying items from 24 Sussex, the official residence of Canada's prime minister.</p> <p>Harper, who was elected in the Alberta riding of Calgary Heritage, resigned as Conservative Party leader but will stay on as an MP.</p> <p>Harper has not spoken publicly since he gave his concession speech. He has been keeping a low profile.</p>	1:12
Newscast 3 <i>Renaming the Calgary airport after Stephen Harper raises debate</i>	<p>Now, there is another race involving Stephen Harper. An online petition is gathering steam calling for the renaming of the Calgary International Airport after the outgoing prime minister. But a rival petition has even more support – this one calling for the airport to NOT BE renamed after Harper.</p> <p>Who will win? Time will tell. Does it matter? Probably not. But thousands of Canadians have added their names to either side of the hypothetical debate.</p>	2:01

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWS STORY 1:

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1: LISTENING FOR COMPREHENSION

5 ways the budget will affect Albertans	
First,	Increase in taxes on <u>tobacco and liquor</u> .
Secondly,	Increase in fines for <u>speeding, failing to stop at a stop sign or running a red light</u> .
Thirdly,	Increase in <u>corporate</u> taxes.
Fourthly,	Funding for <u>families and seniors</u> will increase
Last,	Funding for fixing <u>roads, building schools. (and expanding hospitals)</u>

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2: LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

Low oil prices have affected the pocketbooks of many Albertans, and the same goes for the provincial budget. The province is expecting a deficit of \$6.1 billion dollars this year. However, the deficit is not stopping Alberta's NDP government from increasing spending.

There are 5 ways the budget will affect Albertans. First, there will be increased taxes on tobacco and liquor. Secondly, there will be increases in finer for speeding, failing to stop at a stop sign, or running a red light. Thirdly, increases to corporate taxes will take place. Fourthly, funding for families and seniors will increase. Last but not least, funding for fixing roads, building schools, and expanding hospitals will increase.

LANGUAGE FOCUS: ACTIVITY 1

1. They make a lot of money from their new shop. It is a real cash cow.
2. I need to find a good job so that I can earn a living to support myself.
3. They told the wedding planner that money was not object. They gave her a blank cheque.
4. We only have the money we need we are just making ends meet. (or Living hand to mouth)
5. We all chipped in to buy our mother a gift for her birthday. I think we each paid \$20.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWS STORY 2:

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2: LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Statement	Stephen Harper	Laureen	Rachel	Ben	Movers
Moving to Calgary	✓	✓	✓		
Moved items out of the house					✓
Going to Queen's University				✓	
MP for Calgary Heritage	✓				

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3: LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

Listen again. This time fill in the blanks below with what you hear.

Outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper, his wife, Laureen, and daughter, Rachel, will be moving back to Calgary. Harper's son, Ben, will stay in Ontario while he attends Queen's University in Kingston.

Movers were seen carrying items from 24 Sussex, the official residence of Canada's prime minister.

Harper, who was elected in the Alberta riding of Calgary Heritage, resigned as Conservative Party leader but will stay on as an MP.

Harper has not spoken publically since he gave his concession speech. He has been keeping a low profile.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Answer	Word/Expression	Synonyms/Definitions
B	outgoing	A. sociable B. leaving C. outbound
C	attends	A. joins B. listens C. goes to
A	official	A. authorized, formal B. endorsed, sanctioned C. officer, administrator
C	residence	A. house, home B. university or college dormitory C. the official house of an government or official figure
B	riding	A. galloping, trotting B. constituency, geographical area

		C. travelling, journeying
B	resigned	A. sign on again B. give up your job C. prepared to accept
C	concession	A. business franchise B. reduction, discount C. giving way, yielding, give up
A	low profile	A. inconspicuous, discreet B. shy, modest C. bland, understated

LANGUAGE FOCUS: ACTIVITY 1

Underline the appositives in the following sentence from News Story 2. An example is done for you.

1. Canada's outgoing Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, his wife, Laureen, and daughter, Rachel, will be moving back to Calgary.
2. Harper's son, Ben, will stay in Ontario while he attends Queen's University in Kingston.
3. Movers were seen carrying items from 24 Sussex, the official residence of Canada's prime minister.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWS STORY 3:

VOCABULARY BUILDING ACTIVITY 3

1. We have a problem with the park in our neighbourhood. I am asking my neighbours to sign a petition.
2. We are calling for an immediate solution to the problem.
3. We will know if our plan has worked in a couple of months. Therefore, only time will tell.
4. There are two opposing ideas about the problem in our neighbourhood. We have organized a debate to hear each idea.
5. There are two rival plans competing for our approval.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2: LISTENING FOR GENERAL COMPREHENSION

1. What is the online petition calling for? **Calgary International Airport TO BE renamed after Stephen Harper**
2. What is the rival petition calling for? **Calgary International Airport NOT TO BE renamed after Stephen Harper.**
3. Which petition has more support? **NOT TO BE.**
4. How many Canadians have signed the petitions? **thousands**
5. Does it matter? **Probably not**

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

1. J.A. Douglas McCurdy Sydney Airport **Canadian aviation pioneer**
2. Québec/Jean Lesage International Airport **Composer; Writer**
3. Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport **PM 1968-1979 and 1980 to 1984**
4. Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport **PM and Father of Confederation**
5. Toronto Pearson International Airport **Nobel- prize winner; PM 22 from 1963 to 1968**
6. Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport Aviator and **WW I war hero (he has two airports named for him)**
7. Hamilton/John C. Munro International Airport **MP from 1962 to 1984**
8. Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport **WWII hero and National Defense Minister in the 1970's**
9. Saskatoon/John G. Diefenbaker International Airport **PM from 1957 to 1963**